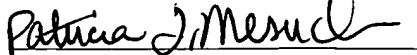


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, PO BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on the date listed below. EXPRESS MAIL NUMBER:

  
Patricia L. Mesuch

3/1/04  
Date of Signature

Express Mail No: EV333680919US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
Renfro, Jr. et al.	)	
	)	
Assignee: Corning Cable Systems LLC	)	
	)	Art Unit: N/A
Serial No.: N/A	)	
	)	
Filed: Concurrently Herewith	)	Examiner: N/A
	)	
Title: FIBER OPTIC SPLICE COMPONENT	)	

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document(s) listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the application.

Copies of the listed document(s) are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document(s) and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the document(s) as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited document(s) do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document(s).

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document(s), should one or more of the document(s) be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Dreman', is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher C. Dreman  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 36,504  
P.O. Box 489  
Hickory, N. C. 28603  
Telephone: 828/901-5904

Date: 3/1/04

Express Mail No: EV333680919US

<b>FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office</b>				<b>Attorney Docket Number:</b>  <b>HE0221</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>  <b>TBD</b>	
<b>LIST OF RELATED DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)				<b>Applicant: James G. Renfro, Jr. et al.</b>			
				<b>Filing Date: Concurrent Herewith</b>		<b>Group: TBD</b>	
<b>U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
<b>Examiner Initial</b>		<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subclass</b>	<b>Filing Date if Appropriate</b>
	AA	5,249,246	9/28/93	Szanto	385	96	6/29/92
	AB	5,222,171	6/22/93	Straus	385	96	10/21/91
	AC	4,598,974	7/8/86	Munn et al.	350	96.21	8/15/85
	AD	4,102,582	7/25/78	Lord et al.	356	241	11/9/76
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subclass</b>	<b>Translation Yes   No</b>
	AK	DE4102582C1	6/4/92	Germany	G02B	6/255	No
	AL						
	A M						
	AN						
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
	AO	News Release, FURUKAWA ELECTRIC DEVELOPS ULTRA-MINIATURE OPTICAL FIBER FUSION SPLICER FOR FTTH, January 17, 2003, pages 1-2.					
	AP						
	AQ						
<b>EXAMINER</b>						<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>	

\*EXAMINER Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.